



To: RCRC Board of Directors
From: Greg Norton
President and CEO
Date: January 22, 2020
Re: RCRC Board Meeting Highlights (January 15, 2020)

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, announced three RCRC organizational promotions:

- Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer
- Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President
- Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs

Mr. Norton stated that the promotions will better align the organization's core operating functions, and provide for ongoing cross-sector understanding and communication to best serve RCRC and its affiliate organizations.

Administrative Matters

RCRC Resolution 20-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy – ACTION

Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer, presented the 2020 RCRC Board Travel Policy, which was adopted by the RCRC Board of Directors.

The memo can be accessed [here](#). The Resolution can be accessed [here](#). RCRC's 2020 Expense Reimbursement Form can be accessed [here](#).

RCRC Resolution 20-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct – ACTION

Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, presented the 2020 Board of Directors Code of Conduct, which was adopted by the RCRC Board of Directors.

The memo can be accessed [here](#). The Code of Conduct can be accessed [here](#).

Governmental Affairs

Overview of the State Budget

Mr. Smith and Governmental Affairs staff provided an overview of the Governor's 2020-21 Proposed Budget and its implications for California's rural counties.

The Rural Rundown, RCRC's in-depth look at the proposal, details of RCRC's advocacy efforts on specific issue items, and an insider perspective into the reasoning and rationale behind specific elements of the proposal, can be accessed [here](#).

Also, prior to the unveiling of the Governor's 2020-21 proposed Budget, RCRC sent a letter to the Newsom Administration outlining RCRC's rural funding priorities for the year. The letter can be accessed [here](#).

Consideration of 2020 RCRC Sponsored Legislation – ACTION

Mr. Smith provided the RCRC Board of Directors with details on two 2020 Legislative Session proposals for potential RCRC sponsorship/co-sponsorship. The proposals addressed interstate cannabis-export, and Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) licenses in Mariposa County.

The RCRC Board of Directors approved the sponsorship/co-sponsorship of both 2020 Legislative Session proposals. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Adoption of RCRC's 2020 Policy Principles – ACTION

Mr. Smith presented proposed revisions to RCRC's Policy Principles as received by members of the RCRC Board of Directors, and developed by RCRC staff.

The memo can be accessed [here](#). RCRC's 2020 Policy Principles, as adopted, can be accessed [here](#).

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on current efforts in the legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California's persistent catastrophic wildfire events. Topics addressed included homeowners insurance availability and affordability, the Governor's Executive Order on price gouging for recovering communities, and the California Vegetation Treatment Program EIR.

The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Legislative Committee

Federal Issues Update

Mr. Smith provided an update on a number of RCRC priority issues being addressed at the federal level, including a two-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools program, and full funding for the Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes program. Other federal priorities addressed in the memo include: cannabis and hemp banking, rural broadband and telecommunications, disaster relief, the State and Local Tax deduction cap, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and infrastructure.

The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Regulatory Committee

California Public Utilities Commission Wildfire Proceedings Update

Ms. Heaton, John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, and Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator, provided a summary of the progress of several California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings impacting how utilities undertake wildfire

hazard mitigation and de-energization of power lines to prevent high-severity wildfires, as well as the administration of the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) and pending Public Safety Power Shutoff legislation.

The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Industrial Hemp Regulations

Arthur Wylene, General Counsel, provided a summary on a recently initiated rulemaking from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and an Interim Final Rule from the United States Department of Agriculture, on commercial Industrial Hemp production prior to the 2020 growing season.

The memo can be accessed [here](#).

California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Trucks Regulations

Ms. Heaton provided an overview of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) establishment of sales requirements on truck manufacturers and reporting requirements for fleet operators of light/medium duty and heavier trucks, and a summary of their potential impacts on RCRC member counties.

The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Water and Natural Resources Committee

Water issues Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate, provided an update on a number of issues involving California water policy. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam provided an update on the Water Resiliency Initiative Portfolio, the General Obligation Bonds to fund resource programs, and the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. At the federal level, The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act, The Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act, the SAVE Water Resources Act, the Water Resources Research Amendments Act, the Water Justice Act, and the Friant-Kern Canal Fix were all discussed.

The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

Ms. Warmerdam provided an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and its implementation in various regions throughout the state.

The memo can be accessed [here](#).

Please refer to the Board Packet and Supplemental Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as all items covered during the January 2020 RCRC Board of Directors meeting. The January 2020 Board Packet can be accessed [here](#).